

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

Kim Dennison
Election Coordinator

Office (479) 271-1049 - Fax (479) 271-5749
kmdennison@co.benton.ar.us or srose@co.benton.ar.us

MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

January 14, 2013

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Robbyn Tumey, and Russ Anzalone

Others present: Kim Dennison, Sharon Rose, and Dana Caler

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

Minutes:

Chairman Brown asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August 17, August 24, September 4, September 17, September 24, September 28, October 17, November 16, November 26, and November 26, 2012 minutes. There being none, Chairman Brown made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of the Siloam Springs Municipal Primary Election to be held April 9, 2013: Chairman Brown stated that he had a concern about the last paragraph on the Siloam Springs Municipal Primary Election Proclamation. It states, "That the election shall be certified by the County Board on or before Wednesday, May 22, 2013, in accordance with Arkansas statute A.C.A. § 7-5-701 (a)(1)." Chairman Brown stated that the election is to be certified ten (10) days after the election and that date is Friday, May 24, 2013. Chairman Brown reported that the ballot draw will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at 5:00 P.M. in Siloam Springs. Chairman Brown requested that Election Coordinator Kim Dennison call City Clerk, Peggy Woody to have the proclamation corrected, advise her of the date and time of the ballot draw, and to reserve the City Hall conference room or the lobby for the ballot draw. Kim stated that she would.

Chairman Brown suggested for early voting, using one (1) ADA Ivotronic at the County Clerk's office in Bentonville and three (3) Ivotronics, one (1) being ADA, at the County Clerk's office in Siloam Springs. Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Tumey and Anzalone about the number of paper ballots to order. Commissioner Tumey suggested at least 300 paper ballot be ordered. Kim stated that there are 1,489 people eligible to vote in the special election, but Chairman Brown stated in 2010, only 200 of 1,170 people voted in the Ward 1 race. Commissioner Tumey stated if there are

five (5) or six (6) candidates on the ballot, more than 300 people could be voting. Commissioner Tumey asked Kim if she was going to order a disk for the BOD. Kim stated that she did not feel it was necessary because of the cost. Commissioner Anzalone stated that multiple candidates could generate a large turnout and suggested the commission wait until the filing period ends on January 29, 2013 to decide the number of paper ballots to order. Commissioners Brown and Tumey agreed. Kim asked the commissioners if 300 paper ballots are ordered, would that also include the number for absentee ballots. Commissioner Tumey responded, yes.

Kim asked for confirmation on the number of precincts to open. Commissioner Tumey asked how the voters are notified. Voter Supervisor Dana Caler stated that it is up to the City of Siloam Springs to notify the voters of the poll sites and the election. Kim stated that the Election Commission is required to print two (2) publications of the polling sites and the election. Kim added that a voter can print a copy of their sample ballot, which is available on VoterView.org.

Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey if they agreed on opening one (1) precinct for the Siloam Springs Municipal Primary Election. Commissioner Tumey asked Kim how many voters are in precincts 8 and 9. Kim stated that precinct 8 is located in Ward 1, and has 664 voters and that precinct 9 is not located in Ward 1 but has 869 voters. Commissioner Tumey asked Kim if only one (1) precinct is opened, how much would be saved. Kim stated the cost of this election is paid for by the City of Siloam Springs, with no cost to the county. Chairman Brown suggested having only one (1) precinct opened. Commissioners Tumey and Anzalone felt that precincts 8 and 9 should be opened.

Coordinator's Update:

Kim reported that the November 6, 2012 General Election billing is complete and ready to be reviewed by the commissioners. The commissioners reviewed the billing and Chairman Brown made a motion to accept the billing for the General Election as presented, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

Kim reported that the staff is looking for new precinct sheriffs for the First Assembly of God Church (Pct. 36), Central United Methodist Church (Pct. 40), Bethel Heights City Hall (Pct. 48), First Christian Church of Rogers (Pct. 56), and the Rogers Christian Church (Pct. 56). Kim stated that she also needs to contact the First Baptist Church of Pea Ridge to view their facility and invited the commissioners. The commissioners stated that if their schedules allowed them the opportunity to visit the church, they would attend. Kim also reported that we will not be able to use Bethel Heights City Hall (Pct. 48) and possibly the Centerton Fire House (Pct. 22) as voting sites in 2013.

Kim went on to report that Centerton (Pct. 22) has 5,260 eligible voters and Rogers First Church of the Nazarene (Pct. 43) has 4,616 eligible voters. She stated that she feels these precincts need to be split. Kim stated that splitting these precincts would help with long lines during large elections and would make the voting procedure more efficient. Sharon stated that Centerton Mayor Bill Edwards mentioned that he would assist in locating additional locations. After a brief discussion for recruiting new sheriffs, searching for new locations, and the possibility of splitting precincts 22 and 43, Chairman Brown suggested tabling this discussion until additional information is obtained. Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey agreed.

Old Business:

Commissioner Tumey asked Kim how much was the budget and the actual operating cost for the election commission for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 and the corresponding cost for these elections. Commissioner Tumey requested that Dana Caler provide the number of active voters who voted in 2008, 2010, and 2012. Commissioner Tumey stated that this information would give a comparison for the amount of monies that was returned to the county General Fund from the election commission.

Chairman Brown asked Dana where the election commission stood on getting a state computer. Dana stated that she would check and report back.

Kim stated that she spoke with Jennifer Price, Washington County Coordinator, about the M-100 Precinct Counter and learned that it may be impractical to buy a small number of M-100 machines to count ballots at the precinct level. Kim added that the system used to count votes, allows a limited number of counting methods, and the election commission is using the maximum number. Kim continued by stating that the county could not use the M-100 and the 650 machines at the same time because of this reason. Chairman Brown stated that purchasing enough machines, at an approximate cost of \$5,000 each, to cover every precinct and early voting. He stated that this would cost the county about \$350,000.

Public Comment:

None

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Anzalone, Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose
Benton County Election Commission